

for his crime, free medical care and issued him a border crossing card to enter the United States of America. The two agents received sentences of 11 and 12 years in prison and now spend 23 hours a day in isolated prison cells. These men are not criminals.

Our government needs to wake up and stop sending the wrong message to our Border Patrol agents and law enforcement officers who face bullets in the line of duty and risk their lives to protect the American people.

Many of us in Congress are concerned about the Federal prosecutor in this case and his decision to bring criminal charges against these border agents. There are legitimate legal questions about how this prosecution was initiated and how the U.S. Attorney's Office proceeded in this case.

I am hopeful that this Congress will soon hold hearings to investigate the prosecution of these agents, because it is time for justice to prevail over injustice.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SARBANES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

FUNDING WAR IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, since Democrats took over Congress, we have tried to establish a process to responsibly end our involvement in Iraq. We, like all Americans, have watched in sadness as 3,422 of our brave soldiers have lost their lives, including 57 of those who came from the State of New Jersey.

That is why Congressman PASCRELL and Congressman PALLONE, Congressman HOLT, Congressman ROTHMAN and Congressman SIRES and myself voted against this resolution.

As we said, we have asked the President to have a responsible end to our involvement, but 3,422 deaths later, the lives of 57 Americans from New Jersey have been lost. Already we have passed and sent to the President a plan that would include a timeline for troop withdrawal.

Our best efforts, however, have been consistently met with a veto. Indeed, President Bush continues to stubbornly, recklessly insist that his failed Iraqi policy continues without any reasonable compromise. We, along with the great majority of Americans, strongly disagree with the President. He has been wrong every step of the way, and it is long past time to bring U.S. involvement in Iraq to a conclusion.

The Democratic leadership has tried repeatedly to bring finality to the war.

But because of a lack of a veto-proof majority, today they have relented on key requirements to help bring about the end.

While we understand why the proposal before us was crafted in such a way, that we believe we must continue to forcibly stand up to the President.

We voted against spending even more money in Iraq because there were no timelines or real accountability on an administration that has proven to be utterly incompetent on the most important issue of our time.

As late as yesterday at a major address, the President continues to try to directly implicate Iraq in 9/11. It was Osama bin Laden, al Qaeda, who made it very clear on that dastardly, cowardly act on September 11 to our World Trade Center that it was done by al Qaeda, done by the Saudi who led this and still continues to lead this terrorist organization.

So why do we continue to try to stretch the reason for going in and having an attack on Iraq that it was because of 9/11. We know that there is the continued attempt to connect the two when they are not connected. Now we hear al Qaeda is strong and doing well in Iraq. However, before 9/11, there were no al Qaeda operatives in Iraq.

So we have now a country that is no better off, really. More people die there. We have a world that is really not any safer. Yet, and still, we have a President who refuses to see the light, continues to go down a path of destruction. So, for that reason, I am proud of my colleagues, PASCRELL, PALLONE, HOLT, ROTHMAN, SIRES and myself who stood up and said, enough is enough, the time is now.

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my profound concern with the continued violations of religious and human rights that the Republic of Turkey has perpetrated against the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Holy See for over 300 million Orthodox faithful.

While I understand and appreciate the role Turkey must fulfill as a strategic ally in our global war on terror, I am immensely disappointed in the demonstrated lack of progress Turkey has made in support of religious tolerance.

As cochair of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Affairs and as a member of the House committees on Foreign Affairs and Homeland Security, I am extremely sensitive to nurturing the growing relationship between the United States and Turkey. The key factors in this relationship are ensuring Turkey's growth as a secular, constitutional democracy.

Americans know the conditions that characterize secular democracies must,

by necessity, include provisions for freedom of religion. While Turkey has made strides in other areas of modernization, it still fails to meet the standards of a civilized world in granting its citizens religious freedom.

We seek no extraordinary demands on Turkey, simply to allow its citizens and institutions to be free of harassment based on religion. It's as simple as that.

Like his predecessors before him, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, worldwide leader of Orthodox Christians, has made extraordinary efforts to bridge the gap between Christianity and Islam. The Patriarch, whom the Orthodox Church considers the first among equals, has been an ambassador of goodwill for the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

In fact, the Ecumenical Patriarch has been proactive in assisting Turkey's cause on the world stage. His excellency, Bartholomew, has stated that Turkey's admission into the European Union would "... provide a concrete example and a powerful symbol of mutually beneficial cooperation between the Western and Islamic worlds and put an end to the talk of the death of civilizations.

"This in turn would be a true strengthening of Europe and the European ideals that converge with the values of the 'pilgrims of the book' spoken by the current Prime Minister of Turkey."

The Ecumenical Patriarchate has a record of reaching out and working for peace and reconciliation amongst all faiths and has fostered dialogue among Christians, Jews and Muslims. What the Greek Orthodox community and all watchdogs of religious freedom throughout the world are asking for in return is simply that Turkey abides by the tenets of its constitution, which secures religious rights for all of its citizens.

In accordance with the administration's ambitious agenda over the next 2 years to further develop a U.S.-Turkey strategic relationship, I urge my fellow Members to support House Resolution 373, of which I am an original cosponsor, so that we may impress upon Turkey the need to grant the Ecumenical Patriarchate ecclesiastic succession; the right to train clergy of all nationalities; and respect for human rights and property rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

By encouraging Turkey to continue the achievements that democratization has yielded thus far for its society, we will be working to promote and safeguard religious human rights for the Ecumenical Patriarchate. For this, we and nearly 300 million Orthodox Christians would be eternally grateful.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COURTNEY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. GRANGER addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SCHIFF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SALI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SALI addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. WYNN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WYNN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

IMMIGRATION REFORM AND OTHER ISSUES OF THE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, as always, I profoundly appreciate the privilege to address you on the floor here of the United States House of Representatives.

We have had quite a momentous week here, and it gives one a sense who has been in the middle of this environment that there are times when this Congress can work urgently and times when our priorities finally rise to the top. And as I watched the committee action and have been involved in it across on this Hill for these last 4½ years, but especially this last week, with the intensity we had at hearings and the intensity we had at markups, and transferring those markups here to the floor for consideration by the full body and debate and occasionally amendments offered, it has been an intense week, and it has been momentous.

Before I get into the meat of the discussion that I hope to take up this

evening, Mr. Speaker, I have to reflect upon what has transpired here just today on the floor of the House of Representatives, and that is passing legislation that improves our lobbying reform and puts more sunlight on the donations that come from lobbying. And I believe that, yet all of us are bound by our own ethical standards, putting sunlight on those activities allows for the public to make that judgment as well as the individual Member of Congress.

I very much support that philosophy, and I am particularly pleased that the motion to recommit spread that responsibility not just across private sector lobbyists, but also the public sector lobbyists as well. That is something that I believe should have been part of the bill, Mr. Speaker. It was something that I brought language to the Judiciary Committee to correct.

We had a significant and intense discussion on that in the Judiciary Committee, but yet the amendment wasn't quite ready for prime time, as they say. It has had a couple of technical flaws in it, so we withheld that amendment in the Judiciary Committee and brought it here as a motion to recommit tonight where it had significant support from Democrats and Republicans. So I am pleased that we have taken that step.

I am hopeful that we will be able to take up some other steps to provide more sunlight on this Congress. And particularly, the language that I offered in the lobby reform bill that passed the floor today and was eventually included in the bill was the requirement that the information be posted on the Internet in a searchable, sortable, downloadable format that would allow the bloggers across the country to be able to go on the Internet and see what is going on with campaign donations and those activities between the lobby and the Members of Congress.

Sunlight is the best disinfectant, and real-time reporting in searchable, sortable, downloadable format so that we are not putting people through the difficulty of having to reenter from a PDF or an Adobe file, or we are not putting them through the difficulty of trying to come up with some summarized information when easily it can go out there in a spreadsheet fashion and make it available in a format that says, we want you to know this; we want you to see this. In fact, we want that kind of oversight from the public, because this is the people's House, and the people are sovereign in America. And this legislation that passed the floor today helps with that.

But I would like to see that same level of scrutiny on the individual campaign contributions of our Members and in real-time reporting in searchable, sortable, downloadable format, Mr. Speaker. And if we can do that, if we can do our financial reportings so that they are to an exact dollar amount or within a narrow dollar fig-

ure within that dollar amount, and then file our own personal finances as well as our campaign contributions in real-time, searchable, sortable, downloadable format, hand it over to the American people with easy access on the Internet, and let them download, let them sort, let them draw their conclusions, let them write their op eds, let them fire up their base and run their Web pages, and let's let that dialogue be added to the mainstream media, the talk radio dialogue, the across-the-backyard-fence dialogue, all of the things that go together in this national conversation that we have that is an amalgamation of all of the opinions in America that helps shape and, in fact, does shape the consensus that America needs in order to move forward.

Then I would also, Mr. Speaker, suggest a fairly simple thing, and that is that when we are on the floor of this Chamber, and we are debating a bill and an amendment, the number and the name of the bill and the number and the name of the subject of the bill and the amendment are only available to a Member when they walk in here on the floor by going over there and asking staff or asking a clerk. That means then if Members of Congress can be watching this operation on C-SPAN, and walk from their Cannon or Rayburn or Longworth Office Building over here in about a 4½-minute span of time, and from the time of knowing what's going on by watching the television of the floor action and spending that 4 to 5 minutes to walk over here, the subject can change, the bill can change, the amendment can change. Two or three amendments can be passed by a voice vote in that period of time, and you will have no idea what kind of action is taking place on the floor when you walk in here without asking someone that is managing the bill or managing the opposition to the bill.

Yet I look up here, Mr. Speaker, into the gallery, and I see visitors on a daily basis, sometimes in significant numbers, and they can't know what is being debated here on the floor. They can't understand the debate or the actions that are here because we don't make it easily available to them. We don't want to make that a secret. We want people to know what is being debated here. In fact, that is one of the reasons why Members come here to the microphones is because they are able to speak, not just you, Mr. Speaker, but simultaneously to a national television audience.

Members want the public to know what we are doing, but the most obvious thing we could do we don't do, and the cheapest and simplest thing, and that would be just simply to project up here on the wall where we project our votes when we are voting the number and the title of the bill, and the number and the title and the author of the amendment. Post those things up there so that when the public comes in and